

10-day gauntlet and his calm determination in the midst of chaos that ensured the safety of individuals thousands of miles away, I submit these words—may they stand as a tribute to his dedicated service when the moment called for it most.

CONGRATULATING KALAMA HIGH SCHOOL'S GIRLS SOCCER TEAM FOR WINNING THE WASHINGTON STATE 1B/2B CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the Kalama High School's girls soccer team for winning the Washington state 1B/2B championship. Kalama, the second seed in the tournament, defeated eighth-seeded Adna on penalty kicks after their title match remained scoreless through 90 minutes. This dramatic finish helped Kalama earn its first state championship in school history. The COVID-19 pandemic limited many of our high school athletes from competing during the 2020 season, yet these individuals persevered and demonstrated adaptability and competitiveness. For the Chinooks, those attributes paid off in a big way.

Competing in prep sports is a wonderful opportunity to learn lessons in discipline, focus, team play, work ethic, and comradery. Winning a state title is a momentous achievement this team can be proud of for the rest of their lives, and I have confidence they will find success using the lessons they learned while competing in soccer. Go Chinooks.

HONORING THE MISSION AND WORK OF THE IMPACT FOUNDATION AND THE IMPACT COMMUNITY CENTERS

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Impact Foundation, led by Chris Laisure and his family in Bluff City, Tennessee. Mr. Laisure and his family started a foundation and purchased the former Bluff City Middle School that has now been repurposed into the Impact Community Center Bluff City. The campus has been completely remodeled to house several non-profit organizations which support both the community and local veterans. In addition, within one year, the Foundation created and dedicated the Bluff City Veteran's Memorial. This center's footprint continues to evolve and will soon include a museum dedicated to Bluff City and its history.

The Foundation then purchased the Holston Valley Middle School, and it too was completely renovated at no costs to the tenants. It hosts several non-profit athletic organizations with the same mission as the original Impact Community Center, with a focus of offering children and young adults opportunities in athletics from a faith-based perspective.

In addition, the Impact Centers have a desire to provide services to the community to

enhance the quality of life and provide both relief and assistance to those who need it without charge to the applicant. Veterans have a special place in the heart of the Foundation as well.

The Impact Foundation, led by Chris Laisure and his family, has gone above and beyond to change lives for the better every day in their community. Their effort, commitment to good, and strength of collective faith are an inspiration. Without seeking any publicity, the Impact Foundation offers the credit only to God and those around them who seek to improve the lives of their fellow citizens in their beautiful community.

Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Impact Foundation, an organization that seeks to help those in their community and improve the lives of children and veterans through their Impact Community Centers. Their work and dedication serve as an inspiration and beacon of hope to us all.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE VILLAGE OF LENA

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, today I rise in recognition of the centennial celebration of the Village of Lena. As the Village of Lena celebrates this milestone, we look back on the outstanding history that has shaped the community. Shortly after the Civil War, the small settlement once known as Maple Valley began to grow and flourish into what is now known as the Village of Lena. In 1882, the population center moved to the present location to focus life and growth around the railroad depot. The booming development welcomed new homes, small businesses, churches, a school, a small hospital, several hotels, and social establishments. Within just three decades, on December 6, 1921, the bustling settlement became the incorporated Village of Lena under the direction of then village president, Dr. Joseph Rose.

Over the last 100 years, the Village of Lena has retained a strong identity as a dairy-farming and cheese-producing community and a vibrant small-town with a family-friendly culture. The Village has continued to pay homage to the first settlers of the area and the rich farming history of the region by celebrating the annual Dairyfest each September. It has partnered with businesses throughout the area to host several family-friendly events including the Taste of Fall and Village of Lights which draws Wisconsinites from all over the state to experience all that the Village of Lena has to offer.

The residents of the Village of Lena are blessed to live in such a special place located in Northeast Wisconsin. With 564 residents and growing, the Village of Lena takes great pride in calling this place home for the last 100 years. The Village of Lena has continued to grow and foster a business-friendly environment for the last century. From a small settlement town to hosting Oconto County's largest employer, Saputo Cheese USA, Lena has simply continued to foster growth. I commend the close relationship between the Village and

local businesses that have contributed to the success of the village and Northeast Wisconsin as a whole.

It is my honor to commemorate this historic milestone for the Village of Lena. I invite all members of this body to join me in celebrating the centennial of the Village of Lena. The Village of Lena is a true credit to Northeast Wisconsin and is deserving of the highest degree of recognition.

IN RECOGNITION OF PRIVATE ROBERT H. BROOKS AND THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, today, on the 80th anniversary of the attacks on U.S. naval forces at Pearl Harbor, we remember poignantly the courage and sacrifice of America's Greatest Generation.

That legacy of service is rich in Kentucky's Second District, exemplified by the seemingly insurmountable challenges faced by Company D of the 192nd Tank Battalion, which included the Harrodsburg Tankers.

On December 8th, across the international dateline and just hours after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Japanese bombers descended on Company D and other U.S. forces who were stationed in the Philippines at Clark Field. A young private and Kentuckian by the name of Robert H. Brooks attempted to sprint to his station to fight back against Japanese forces. Sadly, he lost his life during his heroic action. He was the first casualty of the U.S. Armored Forces in World War II.

The fighting in the Philippines was relentless for the U.S. service members and Company D. All of the remaining 66 Mercer County natives—known today as the Harrodsburg Tankers—survived the initial conflict. However, 29 soldiers were lost to the unimaginable conditions during the three years they were held at prisoner-of-war camps.

At Fort Knox there is a parade field named after Private Brooks, called Brooks Field, and we will never forget him and those brave soldiers. The bravery of Private Brooks, Company D, and its tankers from Harrodsburg are an indelible reminder of the price of freedom for all that we must never forget.

HONORING LT. COL. EROL K. MUNIR

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an essential member of our team that worked to receive vulnerable Afghans when they arrived in Albania, Lt. Col. Erol Munir.

Born in Boston and commissioned at Fort Benning, Lt. Col. Munir has served our nation as an Army officer for the past 16 years. Service is ingrained in his DNA—both his grandfathers were in the military, which he credits with inspiring him to become a soldier.

Through the Army, Lt. Col. Munir has seen the world. In his current role as Office of Defense Cooperation chief at our Embassy in Tirana, he was an instrumental component in coordinating the arrival of our group of Afghan refugees.

Simply put, the success of our mission depended on tireless commitment and devotion to the cause. Lt. Col. Munir spent long hours alongside Ambassador Kim to ensure that everything would proceed smoothly. His meticulous attention to detail was second to none, and I am forever indebted to him for his effort.

Lt. Col. Munir will tell you that his work to receive and shelter Afghan allies is simply an extension of Albanian warmth and hospitality. As a career officer, he would also tell you that it's what he's learned throughout his time in uniform, no matter the mission or the challenge, it's his job to adapt and overcome. These two traits, humility for the work and a determination to carry it out, define Lt. Col. Munir in everything he does.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Lt. Col. Erol Munir's willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty in our effort to evacuate Afghan allies from Kabul and support them in their new life. For his laser-like focus in responding to requests for assistance and for his efficient advocacy to facilitate the arrival of vulnerable Afghans to safe haven, I submit these words—may they stand as a tribute to his dedicated service when the moment called for it most.

HONORING REVEREND DELMUS BRUCE

HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK" FLEISCHMANN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Delmus Bruce of Pioneer, Tennessee, and recognize a lifetime of service to his community.

In his career, Rev. Bruce has officiated more than 200 weddings, presided over 657 funerals, has baptized 1,252 congregants, and has delivered an astonishing 7,010 sermons. Rev. Bruce has also overseen the construction of a new church in 1985 and additional physical growth of the church to include a fellowship hall and a family life center.

As pastor of the Stanfield Church of God, Rev. Bruce has traveled to the Holy Land twice, traveled to Egypt, and has traveled to Hawaii in mission service to the Church of God. In his own community, Rev. Bruce has served as a pillar of faith for more than fifty years.

Rev. Bruce married the love of his life, Mrs. Rose Baird Bruce, on April 19, 1958, and they have been happily married for 63 wonderful years. Their family spans four generations and includes three children, four grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

I am privileged to recognize Rev. Bruce for his many years of distinguished service and dedication.

CONGRATULATING COLUMBIA RIVER HIGH SCHOOL'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE WASHINGTON STATE 2A CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the Columbia River High School's volleyball team for winning the Washington state 2A championship. After a dominant season, Columbia River defeated rival Ridgefield in four sets to claim their first state title in the sport in over 20 years. The COVID-19 pandemic limited many of our prep athletes from competing during the 2020 season, yet high school athletes like the girls on the Columbia River volleyball team have demonstrated the ability to adapt and persevere in these competitions. For the Rapids, that perseverance has paid off in a big way.

Competing in prep sports is a wonderful opportunity to learn lessons in discipline, focus, team play, work ethic, and comradery. Winning a state title is a momentous achievement this team can be proud of for the rest of their lives, and I have confidence they will find success using the lessons they learned while competing in volleyball. Go Rapids.

HONORING DANIELA COOPER

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a member of our team who was instrumental in the safe evacuation of Afghan allies and partners alike, Ms. Daniela Cooper.

Service is ingrained in Ms. Cooper's DNA—she has honorably served our country as a Marine and as a Foreign Service Officer. True to her relentless grit and instinctive nature for problem-solving, she worked with a group of others to assist with the requests that were flooding in as Afghanistan started to fall. No one asked her to do this, no one tasked her to do this, but she was part of a team that knew that skills and resources needed to be combined to help vulnerable allies in their time of need.

When we added Ms. Cooper to our ragtag band of individuals working to get Afghans out, it was the first time that I felt optimistic that we could find some success in the midst of a chaotic evacuation. When we got our group of buses in a caravan through the airport gates, Daniela worked through an entire night and countless obstacles to ensure that our group was able to get on a flight.

Without her assistance planning the flight, our mission could not have worked out in the way that it did. Thanks to her efforts throughout a gauntlet of several days in late August, over 100 Afghans have a new lease on life and can now look towards the future with their families and feel hope. I will always believe we were fated to meet over breakfast two years ago so that we could do the work we did.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Ms. Daniela Cooper for her willingness to go above and

beyond the call of duty in our effort to evacuate Afghan allies from Kabul and support them in their new life. For her work ethic, which earned the profound respect and admiration of our team, and for her refusal to give up until every last person in our group was on a flight to safety, I submit these words—may they stand as a tribute to her dedicated service when the moment called for it most.

RECOGNIZING ITALY A. GREENE

HON. TOM RICE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Italy A. Greene's 100th birthday.

Mr. I.A. Greene was born on December 25, 1921, in Williamsburg County. He graduated from Wilson High School in 1941 and enrolled in higher education at South Carolina State College. His time in college was interrupted in 1942 when he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force where he served for three years and was honorably discharged in 1945.

Mr. I.A. Greene supported his local community by working in both the Georgetown and Darlington County school systems as a teacher, chairman, and principal. Once his long tenure as an educator ended, he continued to serve his community through various organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, Red Cross, United Way, Billy Hardee Homes for Boys, The Lord Cares Ministry, St. John's Heritage Foundation, and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Additionally, Mr. I.A. Greene played a large part in the growth and upkeep of the Bethel AME Church in Darlington. He taught bible study, Sunday School, and educated new members of the church for many years. Mr. Greene is a shining example of a true American patriot and an amazing role model for the people of South Carolina.

Madam Speaker, I join the people of South Carolina in recognizing and congratulating Mr. Italy A. Greene on his 100th birthday and wish him many more happy birthdays ahead.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF LIBERTY-BENTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR WINNING THE DIVISION III STATE VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ROBERT E. LATTI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Mr. LATTI. Madam Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise to pay a very special tribute to an outstanding high school volleyball team in Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. The young women of the Liberty-Benton High School volleyball team have represented their school ably on their way to becoming the Champions of the Division III State Volleyball Championship tournament. The Liberty-Benton Eagles overcame the challenges of intense competition on the path to reach the championship playoffs, capping off an outstanding season with their noteworthy performance.